

times the strength of steel. They took him to Johnston Memorial Hospital. His life was saved. The doctor said if he had not been wearing a vest, he would have died on the spot.

Mr. Speaker, each and every law enforcement officer in America should have the protection of a bulletproof vest. We have legislation to accomplish this. I am an original cosponsor of H.R. 2829, the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant. It is now tied up in a committee. The Republican leadership has refused to allow it to move. That is outrageous. In the name of Officer Smith and all law enforcement officers, I demand that this bill pass.

PAKISTAN

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to focus attention on the situation facing minority religious believers in Pakistan. Although the country's constitution upholds religious freedom, section 295(c) of the penal code states that defiling the sacred name of Mohammed is punishable by death. Unfortunately, reports suggest that some Pakistanis use this law, which carries with it a mandatory death penalty, to falsely accuse Christians of blasphemy.

Let me illustrate with several photographs. The first photograph reveals a young woman sitting in the midst of the destruction caused when the government bulldozed the Christian church and surrounding community buildings. The second photograph shows the view of Reverend Noor Alam, a Christian clergyman lynched by extremists recently in Pakistan. The next photograph depicts the treatment of Pakistani Christians who protested last year's destruction of churches in Shantinagar. Members can see the ropes around their necks.

Mr. Speaker, freedom of religion is a fundamental human right and should be protected by all governments of the world, including the government of Pakistan.

DEMOCRATS UNVEIL EDUCATION AGENDA

(Ms. PELOSI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, every day all across America we tell children that education is very important to their future. But we send them a contradictory message in the condition of American schools. If we truly want to convince children of the importance of education, we must improve the schools at which they learn and reduce class size. Just a few weeks ago, the Democratic leadership of the House and the Senate joined with President Clinton in rolling out a Democratic agenda which calls for smaller classes, it calls for 100,000 new teachers to

teach in these smaller classes, and an initiative to repair old schools and build new schools. This initiative of President Clinton's which I hope the entire Congress will join in calls for a \$20 billion initiative on tax-free bonds for local communities to rebuild their schools. The schools our children learn in are in some cases environmental hazards. In many cases the classrooms are overcrowded. In all cases there is need for reconstruction. Send a clear, consistent message to children that education is important by placing an importance on their schools.

DEMOCRATIC EDUCATION INITIATIVE

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, this body has no greater challenge than to make sure that all of America's children no matter how humble their background have access to a quality education. Education is the great equalizer in our Nation. It is what has allowed the daughter of a garment worker like myself to grow up to be a Member of the House of Representatives. My colleagues on the other side of the aisle want to dismantle public education, to siphon off precious funds into risky voucher proposals. Democrats have a plan to strengthen America's public schools by repairing and modernizing crumbling schools, putting 100,000 teachers in the classroom to promote stronger discipline and better learning, and to cut down on class size. America's public schools have made our Nation strong and put the American dream within reach for so many of our Nation's children. I urge my Republican colleagues not to abandon our children but to follow the Democrats' lead in working to rebuild America's public schools and to maintain strong public education in this Nation.

OUR LIBERAL FRIENDS

(Mr. DELAY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, the President and his allies in this House are calling us the Do-Nothing Congress. I agree. We are the do-nothing-the-liberals-like Congress. Maybe that is why the poll numbers for Congress are at an all-time high, because this Congress will not do anything to the American people. We will not raise their taxes, we will not stick them with unfunded mandates, we will not drive their small businesses out of business, we will not kill the economy, we will not spend the surplus, we will not waste their hard-earned money. I understand that the minority leadership has another agenda and we are hearing it this morning. When Democrats have another so-called agenda, the American taxpayer should have a panic attack. You can

say this about our liberal friends on the other side of the aisle. They got what it takes to take what you got. Let us face the facts. The American people want a break from more wasteful Washington programs no matter what our liberal friends might say.

DEMOCRATIC EDUCATION INITIATIVE

(Mr. WYNN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about a long-term vision, the vision of the Democratic Party to support education in America, to invest in our young people. The fact of the matter is that while a short-term tax cut may be nice, your children's future is tied to education. Education is the key to opportunity. Right now we like to talk about the new jobs, the global jobs, the high-tech jobs. But the fact of the matter is that without a good education, we cannot get those jobs. Right now American employers are looking overseas to hire people because our system does not provide enough qualified, well-educated young people. How can we address this problem? The Democrats advocate first improving our schools. Over a third of our schools need major repairs.

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Over 50 percent of our schools are not prepared or wired for the Internet. We have class sizes that are too large, and we lack discipline in the schools. The Democrats advocate a major investment in education to repair our schools. The Democrats advocate a major investment in hiring 100,000 new teachers so we can have smaller classrooms, better discipline and provide a better educated work force to take on the new jobs of the new millennium.

FREEDOM WORKS AWARD TO FAMILY MISSIONS

(Mr. ARMEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I am honored today to present the Freedom Works Award to the Family Missions of the D.C. area. I established the Freedom Works Award to celebrate freedom by recognizing individuals and groups who promote personal responsibility instead of reliance on the government.

The Family Missions was founded in 1968 and has chapters in most cities across the United States. It is a privately funded charitable religious organization made up of families who believe their Christian duty is best served by assisting and operating homeless shelters, soup kitchens and offering other human services assistance within their communities. Their activities